

# Owner's Operating Service Instruction Manual

10¢

**Model No.  
115-500A**

- **ASSEMBLY**
- **OPERATION**
- **REPAIR PARTS**

## **22" HI WHEEL ROTARY MOWER**

### **WARRANTY**

For one year from date of purchase, MTD Products Inc will replace for the original purchaser, free of charge, F.O.B. factory or authorized service firm, any part or parts found to be defective in material or workmanship. All transportation charges on parts submitted for replacement under this warranty must be paid by the purchaser. This warranty does not include replacement of parts which become inoperative through misuse, excessive use, accident, neglect, improper maintenance or alterations by unauthorized persons. This warranty does not include the engine, motor, battery, battery charger or any component parts thereof. For service on these units, refer to the applicable manufacturer's warranty.

The above warranty will apply only to the original owner and will be effective only if the warranty card has been properly processed. It will not apply where the unit has been used commercially.

Warranty service is available through your local authorized service dealer or distributor. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THE RETURN OF A COMPLETE UNIT BE ACCEPTED BY THE FACTORY UNLESS PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION HAS BEEN EXTENDED.**

# **I M P O R T A N T**

## **SAFE OPERATION PRACTICES FOR WALK-BEHIND MOWERS**

### **TRAINING**

1. Read the Operating and Service Instruction Manual carefully. Be thoroughly familiar with the controls and the proper use of the equipment.
2. Never allow children to operate a power mower.
3. Keep the area of operation clear of all persons, particularly small children and pets.

### **PREPARATION**

1. Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used and remove all stones, sticks, wire, bones and other foreign objects.
2. Do not operate equipment when barefoot or wearing open sandals. Always wear substantial footwear.
3. Check the fuel before starting the engine. Do not fill the gasoline tank indoors, when the engine is running, or while the engine is still hot. Wipe off any spilled gasoline before starting the engine.
4. Disengage the self-propelled mechanism or drive clutch on units so equipped before starting the engine.
5. Never attempt to make a wheel adjustment while the engine is running.
6. Mow only in daylight or in good artificial light.
7. Never operate the equipment in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing; keep a firm hold on the handle and walk, never run.

### **OPERATION**

1. Do not change the engine governor settings or overspeed the engine.
2. Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times.
3. Stop the blade(s) when crossing gravel drive, walks or roads.
4. After striking a foreign object, stop the engine (motor), remove the wire from spark plug, thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage, and repair the damage before restarting and operating the mower.

5. If the equipment should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
6. Stop the engine whenever you leave the equipment, before cleaning the mower housing, and when making any repairs or inspections.
7. When cleaning, repairing or inspecting, make certain the blade and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire, and keep the wire away from the plug to prevent accidental starting.
8. Do not run the engine indoors.
9. Shut the engine off and wait until the blade comes to a complete stop before removing the grass catcher or unclogging chute.
10. Mow across the face of slopes, never up-and-down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes. Do not mow excessively steep slopes.
11. Always disconnect electric mowers (line operated) before cleaning, repairing or adjusting.
12. Never operate mower without proper guards, plates or other safety protective devices in place.
13. Keep washout ports and other mower-housing service openings closed when mowing.

### **MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE**

1. Check the blade and engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness.
2. Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
3. Never store the equipment with gasoline in the tank inside of a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark. Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.
4. To reduce fire hazard, keep the engine free of grass, leaves, or excessive grease.
5. Check the grass catcher bag frequently for wear or deterioration. Replace with new bag for safety protection.

**NOTE: FOLLOW ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS IN NUMERICAL ORDER!**

**9. Check ALL nuts and bolts for correct tightness.**

**1. Assemble Throttle Control To Handle Panel.**

**8. Install Grips**

**NOTE**

It may be necessary to bend the ends of the lower handle inward slightly to assure a snug fit against the deck mounting area.

**7. Assemble Handle Panel To Handle.**

**6. Assemble Clamp to Upper Handle Assembly. Assemble Speed Nut.**

**3. Assemble Two Upper Handles. Use This Bolt Only.**

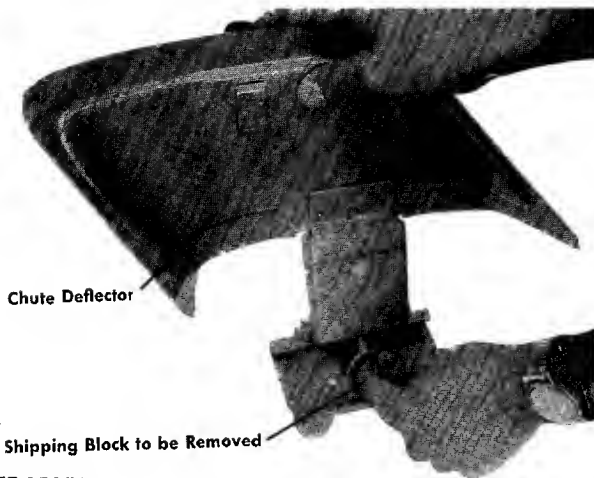
**5. Position Upper Handle Assembly on Lower Handle. Adjust Handle Supports As Desired. Fasten Upper Handle Assembly and Handle Supports To Lower Handle.**

**2. Assemble Lower Handle To Mower.**

**4. Assemble Two Handle Supports To Mower.**

### **CAUTION**

Please note that the chute deflector on your mower is in an upright position. It is held in that position by a shipping block. This block is used for shipping purposes only. It must be removed and discarded before your mower is put into operation.



### **OPERATION**

#### **NOTE**

For shipping purposes your mower is set with the wheels in a low cutting height position. For best results raise the cutting position until it is determined which height is best for your lawn. See adjustments.

1. Service engine with gas and oil. See engine manual packed with lawn mower for complete instructions for care and maintenance of engine. **READ DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY.**
2. When ready to start engine, place throttle control lever, on handle, in "CHOKE" position and start engine in accordance with instructions in Engine Manual. After engine starts, move throttle control lever, on handle, to desired engine speed. The engine is stopped by placing control lever, on handle, in the "STOP" position.
3. Be sure that lawn is clear of stones, sticks, wire or other objects which could damage lawn mower or engine. For best results and to insure more even grass distribution, do not mow when lawn is excessively wet.

### **ADJUSTMENTS**

#### **CAUTION**

Do not at any time make any adjustment to lawn mower without first stopping engine and disconnecting spark plug wire.

#### **CUTTING HEIGHT**

Adjustment may be made by removing and moving wheel studs to desired position. Cutting heights will be raised as wheel studs are moved to a lower hole and lowered as wheel studs are moved to a higher hole in the deck. All wheel studs must be mounted in a relative position to the deck.

#### **THROTTLE**

If adjustment becomes necessary, the throttle control wire assembly can be reset as follows:

1. Loosen, but do not remove, screw securing throttle control wire assembly at engine.
2. Move throttle control lever on handle to "CHOKE" position.
3. Move lever, to which control wire is fastened at engine, to full "CHOKE" position and retighten screw to secure throttle control wire assembly.

#### **BELT ADJUSTMENT**

After the first one-half hour of operation the slack in the belt must be taken up. After this initial adjustment the belt will require only checking after every 25 hours of operation. To tighten the belt, remove the three truss head machine screws (45) and remove the blade spindle cover (46). Loosen the three hex nuts (18) holding the engine to the frame assembly (2) and pull the engine back until the belt (54) has a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " deflection when depressed by hand. Tighten the hex nuts (18) and reassemble shroud. (See illustrations on pages 6 and 8.)

## **MAINTENANCE**

**Cutting Blade** — The blade may easily be removed for grinding or replacement as follows:

1. Remove bolt and lockwasher holding blade and blade adapter to blade spindle.
2. Remove blade and blade adapter from blade spindle.
3. Remove two bolts, lockwashers and nuts holding blade to blade adapter (if necessary).

When sharpening blade, follow the original angle of grind as a guide. It is extremely important that each cutting edge receives an equal amount of grinding to prevent an unbalanced blade. An unbalanced blade will cause excessive vibration when rotating at high speeds and may cause damage to the mower.

To insure safe operation of your unit, ALL nuts and bolts must be checked periodically for correct tightness.

**Deck** — The underside of the mower deck should be cleaned after each period of use as grass clippings, leaves, dirt and other matter will accumulate. This accumulation of grass clippings, etc., is undesirable as it will invite rust and corrosion and may cause an uneven discharge of grass clippings at the next cutting.

The deck may be cleaned by tilting the mower forward or on its side and scraping clean with a suitable tool or by washing with a stream of water from a garden hose.

### **CAUTION**

Do not direct the stream of water at a hot engine, as damage to the engine may result.

**Storage** — The following steps should be taken to prepare lawn mower for storage:

1. Clean and lubricate mower thoroughly as described in the preceding instructions.
2. Refer to engine manual for correct engine storage instructions.
3. Coat mower's cutting blade with chassis grease to prevent rusting.
4. Place blocks under deck to raise tires clear of floor.
5. Store mower in a dry, clean area.

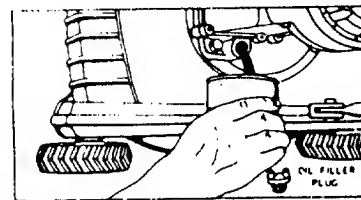
## **LUBRICATION**

**IMPORTANT:** Always stop engine and disconnect spark plug wire before cleaning, lubricating or doing any kind of work on lawn mower.

**Wheels** — Front wheel bearings are of self-lubricating Fortiflex. They require no lubrication. Rear wheels of Lifetime graphoil bearings require little lubrication. A light film of oil applied to these bearings will reduce normal friction.

**Throttle** — Periodically lubricate throttle control lever and throttle wire assembly with a few drops of light oil (SAE No. 10 or 20) for ease of operation.

**Engine** — Follow engine manual for lubrication instructions.



**NOTE:** FILL AND DRAIN OIL FROM OIL FILL PLUG.

Always disconnect spark plug cable during repairs, refueling or changing oil. Engine oil may be drained through oil filler opening by tilting the mower on its side. Change oil after first 5 hours of operation while engine is warm. Thereafter, change oil every 25 hours of operation while engine is warm.

**Protective Shield** — The pivot points on the protective shield should be lubricated periodically with light oil to prevent any rust or binding up.

**Chute Deflector** — The torsion spring and pivot point should be lubricated periodically with light oil to prevent any rust or binding up. Deflector should work freely.

## **USING YOUR ROTARY MOWER**

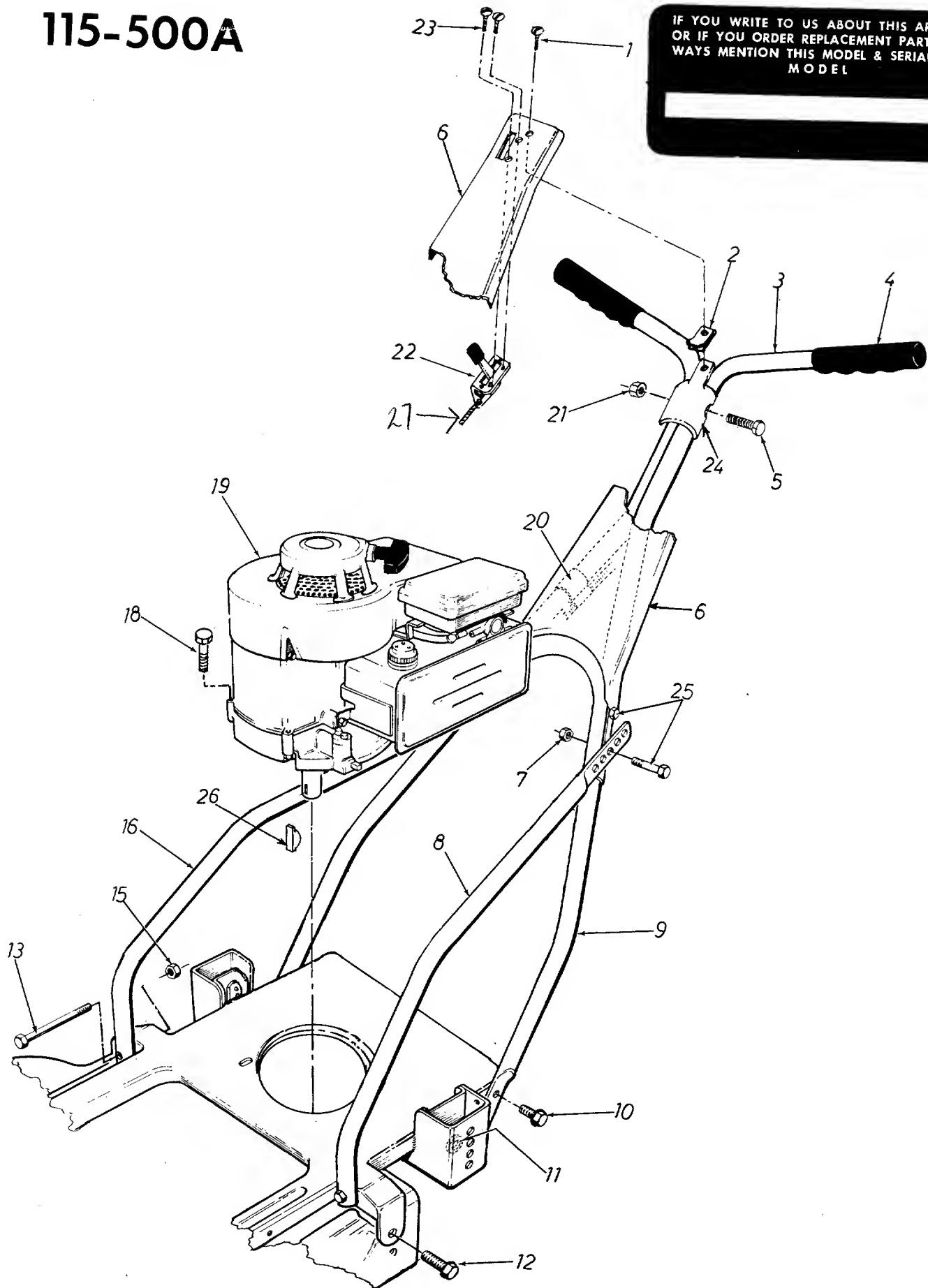
For best results, do not cut wet grass because it tends to stick to underside of the mower thus preventing proper discharge of grass clippings. If wet grass must be cut, reduce walking speed to help distribute the clippings more effectively.

New grass should be treated as wet grass, otherwise a normal walking speed is about the right pace for efficient mowing. The best mowing pattern is one that allows the clippings to discharge towards the uncut part of the lawn. This permits recutting of the clippings to further pulverize them. When cutting high weeds, discharge towards cut portion, then recut at right angles to first direction.

Lawn should be cut in the fall as long as there is growth.

# 115-500A

IF YOU WRITE TO US ABOUT THIS ARTICLE  
OR IF YOU ORDER REPLACEMENT PARTS AL-  
WAYS MENTION THIS MODEL & SERIAL NO  
MODEL



# PARTS LIST FOR MODEL 115-500A

REF. NO.	PART NO.	COLOR CODE	DESCRIPTION	NEW PART
1	710-0192		Truss Hd. Mach. Scr. #10-24 x .38" Lg.*	
2	712-0526		Speed Nut	
3	09354		Upper Handle	
4	720-0157		Grip	
5	710-0136		Hex Scr. 1/4-20 x 1.75" Lg.	
6	11604—458		Handle Panel	
7	712-0107		Hex Center L-Nut 1/4-20 Thd.	
8	08327		Handle Support—L.H.	
9	09362		Lower Handle	
10	710-0209		Hex Sems Scr. 3/8-16 x .62" Lg.	
11	736-0112		Belleville Washer	
12	710-0209		Hex Sems Scr. 3/8-16 x .62" Lg.	
13	710-0102		Hex Scr. 1/4-20 x 2.50" Lg.*	
15	712-0107		Hex Center L-Nut 1/4-20 Thd.	
16	08328		Handle Support—R.H.	
18	710-0158		Hex Scr. 5/16-24 x 1.25" Lg.	
19	—		Engine	
20	746-0128		Cable Clip	
21	712-0107		Hex Center L-Nut 1/4-20 Thd.	
22	746-0189		Throttle Control Ass'y.—Comp.	
23	710-0227		Hex Wash. Hd. AB-Tapp Scr. #8 x .38"	
24	07861		CLAMP BRKT	
25	710-0606		Hex Scr. 1/4-20 x 1.50" Lg.*	
26	714-0365		Hi Pro Key 7/32 x 3/8 DIA	
27	746-228		CONDUIT & WIRE	

\*For faster service obtain standard nuts, bolts and washers locally. If these items cannot be obtained locally, order by part number and size as shown on parts list.

(458 — Arctic Blue) — When ordering parts, if color or finish is important, use the appropriate color code shown at left. (e.g. Arctic Blue —09169 (458).)

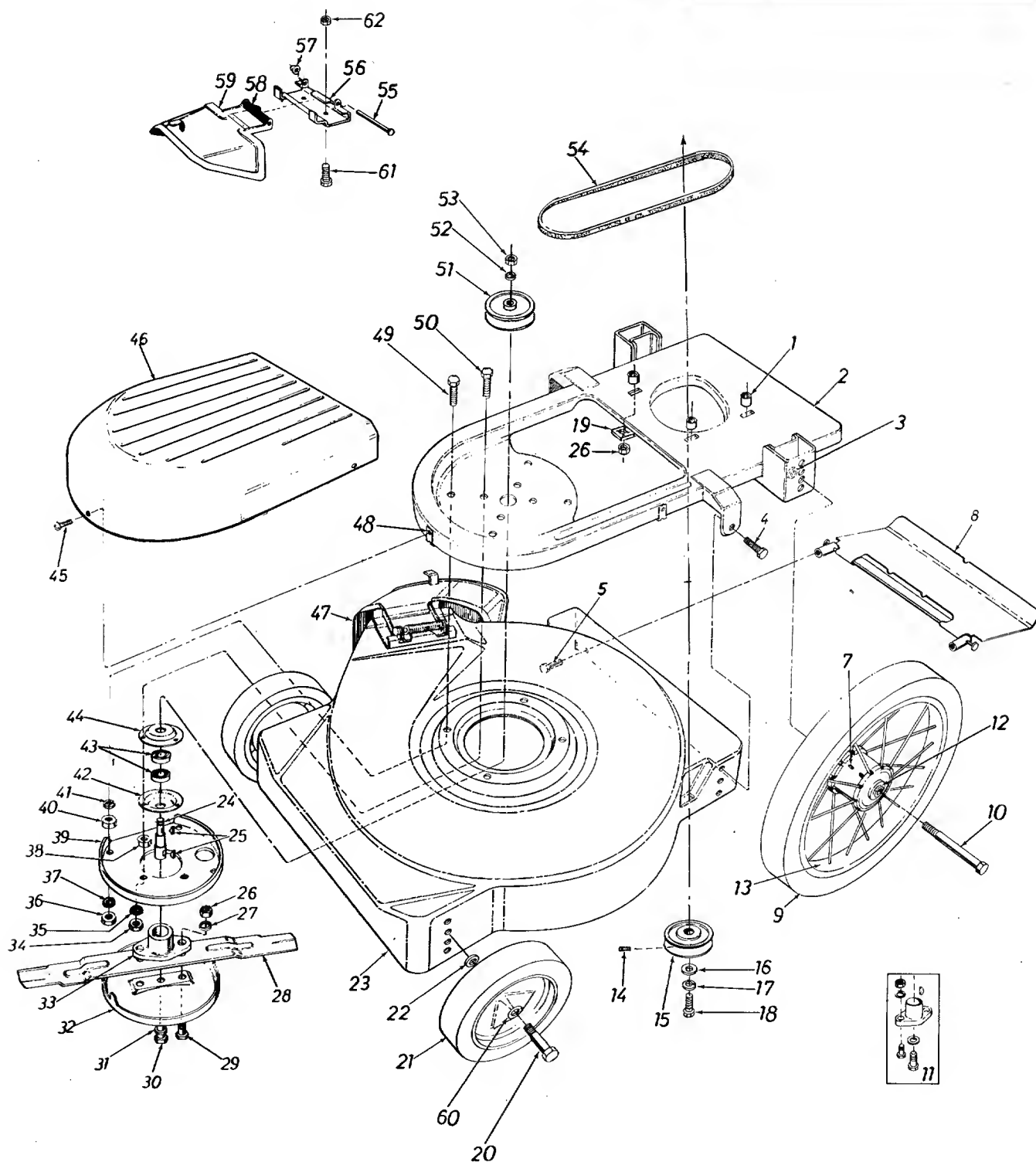
The engine is not under warranty by the mower manufacturer. If repairs or service is needed on the engine, please contact your nearest authorized engine service outlet. Check the "Yellow Pages" of your telephone book under "Engines—Gasoline."

Find us fast in the



# 115-500A

IF YOU WRITE TO US ABOUT THIS ARTICLE  
OR IF YOU ORDER REPLACEMENT PARTS AL-  
WAYS MENTION THIS MODEL & SERIAL NO  
MODEL





**PARTS LIST FOR MODEL 115-500A**

REF. NO.	PART NO.	COLOR CODE	DESCRIPTION	NEW PART	REF. NO.	PART NO.	COLOR CODE	DESCRIPTION	NEW PART
1	711-0250		Spacer .355 I.D. x 1.010 O.D. x .630		28	742-0125		22" Blade	
2	<del>12276</del> 13592—458		Frame Ass'y.		29	710-0117		Hex Scr. 5/16-24 x 1.00" Lg. H.T.	
3	736-0105		Belleville Wash.		30	710-0459		Hex Scr. 3/8-24 x 1.58" Lg. H.T.	
4	710-0209		Hex Sems Scr. 3/8-16 x .62" Lg.		31	736-0217		L-Wash. 3/8" Scr. H.D.	
5	710-0567		Hex Scr. 1/4-28 x .62" Lg.*		32	07919		Scalp Plate	
6	741-0177		Blade Spindle Ass'y.—Comp. (Incl. Ref. Nos. 24, 42, 43 44)		33	10769		Blade Adapter Kit	
7	718-0132		Oil Cap		34	712-0123		Hex Nut 5/16-24 Thd.*	
8	11193—458		Rear Protective Shield Ass'y.		35	736-0119		L-Wash. 5/16" Scr.*	
9	9184-501		Rear Wheel Ass'y.—Comp.		36	712-0167		Hex Nut 5/16-18 Thd.*	
	734-0237		Rear Tire Only 14"		37	736-0119		L-Wash. 5/16" Scr.*	
10	738-0114		Shoulder Scr. .498" Dia. x 4.755" Lg.		38	712-0123		Hex Nut 5/16-24 Thd.*	
11	10769		Blade Adapter Kit		39	12281		Blade Reinforcement Plate	
12	748-0147		Flange Bearing		40	712-0267		Hex Nut 5/16-18 Thd.*	
13	734-0238		Rear Wheel Less Tire		41	736-0119		L-Wash. 5/16" Scr.*	
14	710-0938		Set Scr. 1/4-28 x .25" Lg.		42	08253		Bearing Housing	
15	756-0121		Engine Pulley		43	741-0919		Ball Bearing .787" I.D. x 1.85 O.D. x .56	
16	07386		Fl.-Wash. .390" I.D. x 1.75" O.D. x .187		44	08253		Bearing Housing	
17	736-0217		L-Wash. 3/8" Scr. H.D.		45	710-0192		Truss Mach. Scr. #10-24 x .38	
18	710-0152		Hex Scr. 3/8-24 x 1.00" Lg.*		46	08295—452		Blade Spindle Cover	
19	736-0170		Special L-Wash 5/16" Scr.		47	11679—458		Chute Deflector Ass'y.—Comp.	
20	738-0213		Shoulder Scr. .498" Dia. x 1.450" Lg.		48	712-0526		Speed Nut	
21	9392-501		Front Wheel Ass'y.—Comp.		49	710-0116		Hex Scr. 5/16-18 x 2.00" Lg.*	
22	736-0105		Belleville Wash.		50	710-0158		Hex Scr. 5/16-24 x 1.25" Lg.*	
23	12422—458		Deck Ass'y.—Comp.	N	51	09925		Sheave Ass'y. 4"	
24	738-0251		Blade Spindle		52	736-0921		L-Wash. 1/2" Scr.*	
25	714-0365		#6 Hi-Pro-Key 5/32" x 5/8" Dia.		53	712-0200		Hex Ins. L-Nut 1/2-20 Thd.	
26	712-0123		Hex Nut 5/16-24" Thd.*		54	754-0116		"V"-Belt 1/2" x 42" Lg.	
27	736-0119		L-Wash. 5/16" Scr.*		55	711-0555		Pivot Pin	
					56	11130—458		Adapter Plate	
					57	726-0106		Push Nut 1/4" Rod	
					58	732-0253		Torsion Spring	
					59	11141—458		Chute Deflector Ass'y.	
					60	07006		Fortiflex Bearing	
					61	710-0289		Hex Scr. 1/4-20 x .50"	
					62	712-0107		Hex Cent. L-Nut 1/4-20 Thd.	

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The engine is not under warranty by the mower manufacturer. If repairs or service is needed on the engine, please contact your nearest authorized engine service outlet. Check the "Yellow Pages" of your telephone book under "Engines—Gasoline."



#### **NOTE**

The manufacturer **DOES NOT** recommend the use of any accessory on this rotary mower other than those manufactured by MTD Products Inc.

GRASS CATCHER Model No. 195-003A is available as optional equipment for the mowers shown in this manual.

#### **WARNING**

1. The mower should not be operated without the entire grass catcher or chute deflector in place.
2. The mower should not be operated without the protective shield on the rear of the deck in place.

#### **NOTE:**

Under normal usage bag material is subject to wear and should be checked periodically. Be sure any replacement bag complies with the mower manufacturer's recommendations.

For replacement bags, use only factory authorized replacement bag No. 764-0119.

#### **★ IMPORTANT**

After striking a foreign object, stop the engine, remove wire from spark plug. Thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage, and repair the damage before restarting and operating the mower.

# PARTS INFORMATION

**DEFECTIVE OR MISSING PARTS** must be reported to the factory immediately. Such claims must include your model number and date of purchase.

## POWER EQUIPMENT PARTS AND SERVICE

Parts and service for all MTD manufactured power equipment are available through the authorized service firms listed below. All orders should specify the model number of your unit, parts numbers, description of parts and the quantity of each part required.

**A 1 Engine & Mower Co.**  
327 East 9th Street  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

**Auto Electric & Carburetor Co.**  
2525 4th Avenue, S.  
P. O. Box 1948  
Birmingham, Alabama 35233

**Automotive Equipment Service Co.**  
3117 Holmes Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64109

**Bailey's Rebuild Inc.**  
1325 E. Madison Street  
Seattle Washington 98102

**Bleckie, Inc.**  
7900 Lorain Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

**Brown Equipment Distributor Inc.**  
110 Beech Street  
Corydon, Indiana 47112

**Bullard Supply**  
2409 Commerce Street  
Houston, Texas 77003

**Catto & Putty, Inc.**  
P. O. Box 2408  
510 Soledad Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

**Center Supply Company**  
6867 New Hampshire Avenue  
Takoma Park, Maryland 20012

**Dixie Sales Company**  
P. O. Box 1408  
327 Battleground Avenue  
Greensboro, North Carolina 27402

**East Point Cycle & Key Shop**  
1617 Whiteway  
East Point, Georgia 30044

**Gamble Distributors**  
West End Avenue  
Carthage, New York 13619

**Garden Equipment Co., Inc.**  
6600 Cherry Avenue  
Long Beach, California 90805

**Gardenville Supply, Inc.**  
Pipersville, Pennsylvania 18947

**Henry W. O'Neil & Assoc., Inc.**  
410 North Goodman Street  
Rochester, New York 14609

**Henzler, Inc.**  
2015 Lemay Ferry Road  
St. Louis, Missouri 63125

**Kenton Supply**  
8216 North Denver Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97217

**Kimber's Inc.**  
115 W. Geddes St.  
Syracuse, New York 13204

**Marr Brothers**  
423 E. Jefferson  
Dallas, Texas 75203

**McClure Lawn & Garden Supply**  
1114 Lexington Avenue  
Mansfield, Ohio 44907

**Memphis Cycle & Supply Co.**  
421 Monroe Avenue  
Memphis Tennessee 38103

**Morton B. Collins Co.**  
300 Birnie Avenue  
Springfield, Massachusetts 01107

**Mox-All of Florida, Inc.**  
365 Greco Avenue  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

**National Central**  
687 Seville Rd.  
Wadsworth, Ohio 44281

## BRIGGS & STRATTON, TECUMSEH AND PEERLESS PARTS AND SERVICE

Briggs & Stratton, Tecumseh and Peerless parts and service should be handled by your nearest authorized engine service firm. Check the yellow pages of your telephone directory under the listing *Engines — Gasoline*, Briggs & Stratton or Tecumseh Lauson — Power Products.

**Parts & Sales Inc.**  
2101 Industrial Pkwy.  
Elkhart, Indiana 46514

**Power Equipment Distributor**  
36463 So. Gratiot Avenue  
Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48043

**Power Lawn & Garden Equip. Co.**  
2551-2571 J. F. Kennedy Road  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

**Radco Distributors**  
2403 Market Street  
P. O. Box 3216  
Jacksonville, Florida 32206

**Raub Supply Company**  
James & Mulberry Sts.  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17604

**Richmond Battery & Ignition**  
P. O. Box 25369 — 957 Myers St.  
Richmond, Virginia 23260

**R. P. W., Inc.**  
623 S. 16th Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

**Smith Hardware Company**  
515 N. George Street  
Goldsboro, North Carolina 27530

**South Denver Lawn Equip. Co.**  
527 West Evans  
Denver, Colorado 80223

**Suhren Engine**  
8330 Earhart Blvd.  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

**Sutton's Lawn Mower Shop**  
Route 4, Box 343  
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72117

**Warner Equipment**  
7520 Lyndale Avenue, So.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55423

**Woodson Sales & Service**  
1702 North Sylvania  
Ft. Worth, Texas 76111

## WARRANTY PARTS AND SERVICE POLICY

The purpose of warranty is to protect the customer from defects in workmanship and materials, defects which are NOT detected at the time of manufacture. It does not provide for the unlimited and unrestricted replacement of parts. Use and maintenance are the responsibility of the customer. The manufacturer cannot assume responsibility for conditions over which it has no control. Simply put, if it's the manufacturer's fault, it's the manufacturer's responsibility; if it's the customer's fault, it's the customer's responsibility.

### CLAIMS AGAINST THE MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY INCLUDES

1. Replacement of Missing Parts on new equipment.
2. Replacement of Defective Parts within the warranty period.
3. Repair of Defects within the warranty period.

All claims MUST be substantiated with the following information:

1. Model Number of unit involved.
2. Date unit was purchased or first put into service.
3. Date of failure.
4. Nature of failure.